

Jeralynn S. Cossman • *Inaugural Dean*

College for Health, Community and Policy
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Mission Statement

The mission of the College for Health, Community and Policy (HCaP) is to develop solutions to affect change for complex social issues to improve the well-being of communities and the world. We aim to accomplish this mission through exceptional education, creation and dissemination of knowledge, and partnership with diverse communities and institutions from local to global with an emphasis on equity and inclusion.

Departments

- Criminology & Criminal Justice
- Demography
- Kinesiology
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Sociology

KEY AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Community-engaged research
- Intervention research
- Migration/ immigration
- Trauma
- Older adult health
- Population studies
- Crime and economics
- Health and housing

FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Collaborative Research: Determining the Fundamental Cognitive Properties of Decision Making

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- A Gender Transformative Implementation Strategy with Providers to Improve HIV Outcomes in Uganda
 - National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- A Technological Intervention to Improve Nutrition among Older Adult Congregate Meal Participants during COVID-19
 - National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
- Antecedents & Consequences of College Drinking Among Mexican Americans & European Americans
 - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- Obesity Prevention in Head Start: The Miranos! Project
 - National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- Sex Differences in Cardiometabolic Health of Offspring Born from Obese Mothers with and without Exercise
 - National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

- Life Course and Intergenerational Effects of Criminal Justice Involvement: Identifying Risks, the Search for Resilience, and the Impact of Rise in Opioid Misuse and the COVID-19 Pandemic
- The Cumulative Financial Costs of Victimization among College Students at Minority Serving Institutions
- Violence Against Teachers in the 50 Largest U.S. School Districts: Predictors, Consequences, and School Responses

Centers and Institutes

- Center for Community Based and Applied Health Research
- Institute for Demographic & Socioeconomic Research
- Institute for Health Disparities Research
- Policy Studies Center

Number of Faculty: **188**

Funding Sources

Federal

- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - NIMH
 - NINR
 - NIAAA
 - NIDDK
 - NIGMS
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Organizational Collaborations

- City of San Antonio (CoSA)
- UT Metro Health
- R&D League
- Department of Health Services - Senior Services Division and the Older Adults Technology Services
- Alamo Area Resource Center
- San Antonio Military Health System
- San Antonio Council on Alcohol & Drug Awareness
- Hearts need art

FEDERALLY FUNDED DATASETS USED IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions-III (NESARC-III)
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1979 (NLSY79)
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)
- The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)

FEDERALLY FUNDED DATASETS USED IN TEACHING PROJECTS

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
- Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID)
- The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)

IN THE NEWS

- "Can Rage Hotlines Prevent Some Mass Shootings? Researchers Study the Idea" *NPR*, July 8, 2021.
- "Fewer Latino Births, More Deaths Have an Impact on Nation's Slower Growth" *NBC News*, December 22, 2021.
- "No Visits and Barely Any Calls – Pandemic Makes Separation Even Scarier for People with a Family Member in Prison" *The Conversation*, April 20, 2021.
- "Study: Adolescents' Experiences with Police Have Harmful Repercussions for Later Life Outcomes" *Phys.org*, October 15, 2021.
- "What to Know About Substance Use and the Latinx Community" *PsychCentral*, December 22, 2021.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jeralynn (Lynne) Cossman has research and teaching interests in medical sociology, demography, and health services research. She is a Professor of Sociology and Professor of Demography, the Mark G. Yudof Dean's Endowed Professor, and the Inaugural Dean of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) College for Health, Community and Policy.

She was Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University (WVU) from 2014-2020. Prior, she was at Mississippi State University (MSU) from 2001-2014 where she was Professor and Department Head of Sociology and a Research Fellow at the Social Science Research Center, examining issues related to health assessment, prevention, and social epidemiology.

Her current research focuses on spatial concentrations of mortality and morbidity and the opioid epidemic. Her research projects have been funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Mississippi's Division of Medicaid. Her work has been published in several sociology and interdisciplinary journals including the American Journal of Public Health, Social Problems, Health and Place, Population Research and Policy Review, Sociological Inquiry, and Sociological Spectrum.

FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Senior personnel, awarded \$109,440 from the National Science Foundation for RAPID: Rural Crisis Decision-Making: Risk Information Management and Reactions to Precaution Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Appalachia. (May 2020-April 2021)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Rockett, I. R., Jia, H., Ali, B., Banerjee, A., Connery, H. S., Nolte, K. B., Miller, T., White, F. M. M., DiGregorio, B.D., Larkin, G.L., Stack, S., Kolves, K., McHugh, K., Lulla, V.O., **Cossman, JS**, De Leo, D., Hendricks, B., Nestadt, P.S., Berry, J. H., D'Onofrio, G., & Caine, E. D. (2022). Association of state social and environmental factors with rates of self-injury mortality and suicide in the United States. *JAMA network open*, 5(2), e2146591-e2146591.
- Rockett IRH, Caine ED, Banerjee A, Ali B, Miller T, Connery HS, Lulla VO, Nolte KB, Larkin GL, Stack S, Hendricks B, McHugh RK, White FMM, Greenfield SF, Bohnert ASB, **Cossman JS**, D'Onofrio G, Nelson LS, Nestadt PS, Berry JH, and Jia H. 2021. "Fatal Self-Injury in the United States, 1999-2018: Unmasking a National Mental Health Crisis." *EclinicalMedicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2021.100741>
- Woods J, **Cossman JS**, and Wolf JK. 2020. "Disparities in Disc Golf Course Distribution in the United States." *Managing Sport and Leisure*. Published online, doi: 10.1080/23750472.2020.1856711
- James W, Wolf JK, and **Cossman JS**. 2020. "Characteristics of Persistently Unhealthy Counties: A Comparison of White and Black Mortality Over Time." *The Social Science Journal* 57(1):115-119. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1016/j.soscij.2019.01.005>.

Interstates of Infection

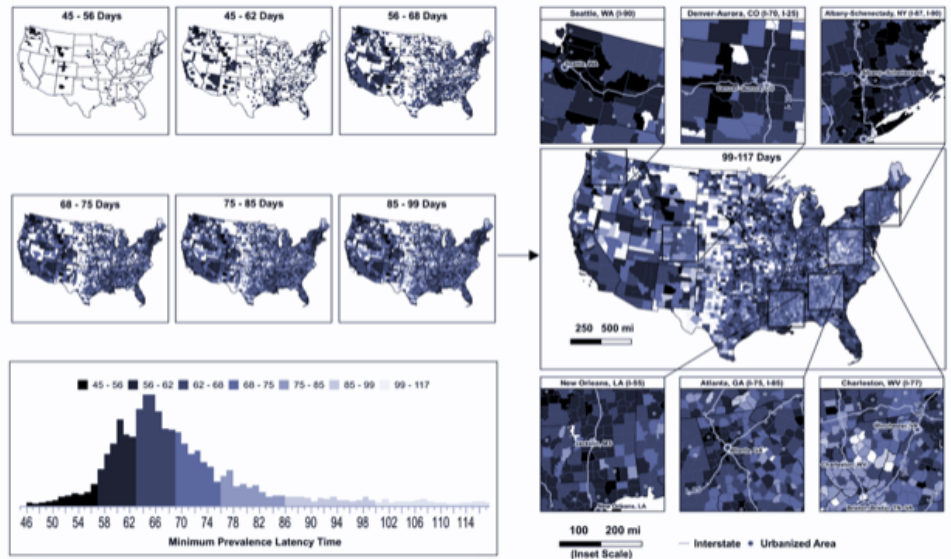
Souch JM, **Cossman JS**, and Hayward MD. 2021. "Interstates of Infection: Preliminary Investigations of Human Mobility Patterns in the COVID-19 Pandemic." *The Journal of Rural Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.12558>

Federally Funded Data Used

- 2019 US Census Bureau populations estimates
- US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefiles

Findings

- We found that human mobility via road travel introduced COVID-19 into more rural communities. Interstate travel restrictions and road travel restrictions would have supported stronger mitigation efforts during the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced transmission via network contact.



Rural-Urban Disparities in COVID-19 Testing

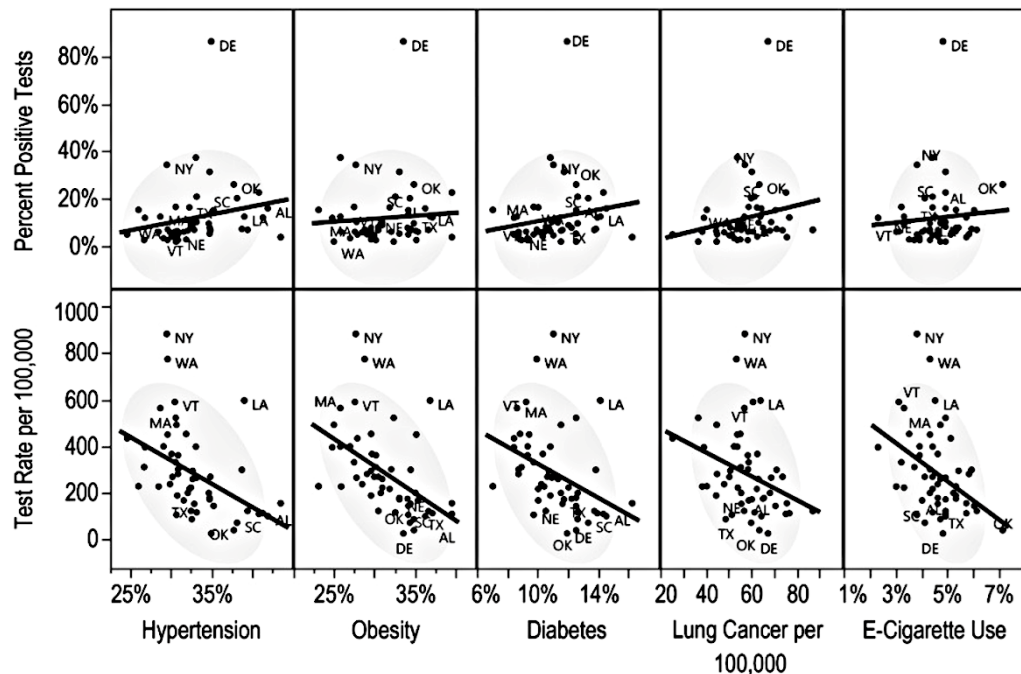
Souch, JM and **Cossman JS**. 2020. "A Commentary on Rural-Urban Disparities in COVID-19 Testing Rates per 100,000 and Risk Factors." *The Journal of Rural Health*. Published online, doi: 10.1111/jrh.12450. Adult Health

Federally Funded Data Used

- 2019 US Census Bureau population estimates
- 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) state-level risk factor data

Findings

- Rural states ranked higher in specific risk factors identified by the CDC in 2020, such as hypertension, obesity, diabetes, lung cancer, and e-cigarette use, were performing COVID-19 tests at lower rates.



IN THE NEWS

- "Students - most of them COVID-careful - are back in San Antonio Schools" *San Antonio Express News*, September 27, 2021
- "Teachers, students part of task force to advise Metro Health on reopening schools" *KSAT12*, July 21, 2020
- "UTSA task force to guide safe campus reopening" *The Business Journals*, May 27, 2020